

May 14, 2015

The May 14, 2015 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by JoAnn Fascenelli, held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of 1976. Present were James McMekin, Glenn Todd, Dawn Smith, Joseph Watters (7:34 p.m.) and Elaine Drazek (7:47 p.m.). Absent were Ruth Pante and Robert Jewell. Also present were Connie Andershonis, Leigh Raffaele, and Carren Thomas.

Ms. Fascenelli announced that Ms. Pante was not able to attend tonight's meeting due to a conflict in scheduling.

MINUTES

Mr. Todd MOVED to accept and approve the minutes of April 9, 2015, seconded by Mr. McMekin.

VOTE: Mr. Todd and Mr. McMekin – Aye
Ms. Smith – Abstain

MAIL

The Environmental Commission and Green Team Members received a letter dated May 2015 from the Mansfield Township Elementary School thanking them for their participation in the school's Community Health and Resources Fair held on April 16th. Letter was signed by Colleen Hurley (School Nurse) and Leslie Fulmer-Cook (Social Worker).

2015 ANJEC Grant Award; implementation and community outreach requirements

Ms. Smith read the letter from ANJEC congratulating the Environmental Commission on being selected as a recipient of the 2015 Sandy Batty Open Space Grant Award. Both Ms. Pante and Ms. Smith signed the grant award offer/notification. The Environmental Commission was awarded \$ 750.00 out of the original grant amount of \$ 1,500.00. Ms. Smith said that \$600.00 will go towards paying for a forester and \$ 150.00 will go towards community outreach. The first progress report is due September 8, 2015. ANJEC will provide a format for the report. Phase 1 – April 2015 will be the improvement plan and tree identification report to be completed by early May. Also weed identification will be part of this phase. Then a forestry plan will be developed. For the community outreach portion the ANJEC Logo must be used.

Ms. Fascenelli stated a check for \$500.00 was received and a chapter 159 resolution will be on the next Township Committee meeting agenda. ANJEC will remit the balance when the Environmental Commission has completed all tasks and deliverables, and submitted documentation to ANJEC.

Earth Day; tree seedling distribution

Ms. Drazek, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Andershonis distributed 100 seedlings during Earth Day at the Mansfield Elementary School. Many residents commented that the seedlings were a nice addition to Earth Day.

ANJEC Commissioners' Course (attended by Dawn Smith)

Ms. Smith attended this course and she said it was advised that Environmental Commissions should have a member with a background in landscaping / architecture. Ms. Fascenelli said she spoke with the Township Clerk and there is no criteria to volunteer to be an Environmental Commission member. The vacant position would be open to anyone wishing to serve.

Recreational Trails Program Grant Submission

Ms. Smith, Ms. Andershonis, and Mr. Misertino met to discuss the submission for the Trail Grant. The Township Clerk submitted the 2015 Recreational Trails Program Grant application in the amount of \$ 24,000.00. There is a 20% or greater in kind (\$ 4,800.00) or cash match of \$ 6,250.00. Ms. Smith explained that the grant was submitted in order to convert one mile of an existing gravel foot trail with a multi-use asphalt capped trail including a .6 mile loop at the trail head entrance and a section that will extend toward the municipal link trail. Ms. Smith pointed out the necessity of the project for erosion control. A sub-base of approximately 264 tons of QP will be used to create a uniform 1 ½" x 8' base in preparation for asphalt application. Department of Public Works personnel will apply, roll and compact the QP in preparation for the asphalt application. Asphalt will be used to cap the sub-base applied by a local vendor with a 2" x 8' cap. Kevin Ward, Department of Public Works Supervisor will be checking if reclaimed millings can be used for the base with NJDP and also to determine if a "beneficial use" permit would be required. Mrs. Smith stated that Mr. Ward provided the project cost by utilizing the Morris County Co-Opt. Mr. Watters felt that \$ 2,270.00 was a lot of money for QP. Mr. Watters and Mr. Glenn stated that the Morris County Co-Op does not always offer the best price or the best product for the job. Ms. Smith stated that the Township can always apply for another grant to finish this project.

Mr. Todd stated the QP should be purchased as a voucher program (order as you need it). The asphalt delivery and application cost presented in the grant was \$ 40,260.00. Mr. Watters and Mr. Glenn stated it will make a difference if a 2" or 4" base is being recommended. A steeper grade will have more run off. Mr. Watters stated for the base that the Department of Public Works only has a light roller. Need to make sure we do a good job.

Mrs. Smith said that someday it would be a good idea to incorporate signage at the Brickyard Trail as well. Mr. Watters advised most of the Brickyard Trail is in the Highlands.

Moth Night, July 22, 2015

Ms. Drazek stated she has not received any additional information. There have been no invites to meetings. The Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was asked to contribute \$100.00 (the same as last year). Ms. Drazek does not believe there will be any meetings until June.

2014 Activities Report

Ms. Smith handed out a 2014 activities report noting the activities and accomplishments in 2014 by the Environmental Commission, Recycling Coordinator, Green Team, and other public education/awareness/outreach topics and documents. This report will be submitted to Sustainable Jersey. Ms. Fascenelli asked if the Green Team would still require the Environmental Commission reports from 2012 and 2013. Mrs. Smith advised that they are no longer necessary.

Mt. Bethel Church purchase; MCCTFC grant and planned activities

Ms. Thomas stated Mr. Parke, Mr. Rhein and Mr. Tomaszewski spent a day cleaning up the cemetery. They started the clean up approximately at 6:30 am.

Ms. Andershonis expressed her concern regarding the parking lot at the church. The parking lot is utilized as a bus stop. When the volunteers were there they did not pull far enough into the parking lot causing some issues with the bus stop. She stated a red truck was in the way. This is a safety issue because the lot is being used as a bus stop. Mr. Todd asked Ms. Andershonis if she spoke with the volunteers asking them to move their vehicles further into the parking lot. Ms. Andershonis said she did not. Ms. Thomas stated she is not sure how often volunteers will be on the property doing work. Mr. Rhein comes from PA to volunteer to do work. Ms. Thomas asked Ms. Andershonis how many parents wait in cars for their children to get the bus and what times does the bus pick up. Ms. Andershonis stated the high school comes at a different time than the elementary school. She will try to obtain a schedule and forwarded it to Ms. Pante.

Ms. Thomas stated it was a bit of a delay in the grant process. For this structure time was of the essence. The roof needed to be tarped in order to stop further damage to the interior. A video was taken of the interior. There is a lot of deterioration due to water damage. The floor is damaged and there is mold. Valuable lights and fixtures were removed from the building. It was wise of the Committee to tarp the roof to stop the water from coming in.

The Mount Bethel Church is currently listed on the Federal and State Registry of Historical Buildings and through the Township acquiring the property the Township would be able to restore and maintain the church and grounds.

Ms. Thomas advised the Mount Bethel Church was built in 1844 by Judge James Egbert. The church was originally named Egbert's Church until it was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Conference. The cemetery has a number of significant individuals. Dr. Robert Cummins was a pioneer of medicine and served as a surgeon in the First Sussex regiment during the Revolutionary War and was put to rest in the cemetery in 1806. Many stones throughout the cemetery date back as far as the 1700's. Frances Asbury came to the church and named it Mount Bethel.

At this point volunteers are trying to establish a non-profit organization in order to host a benefit in hopes of getting the building back to its former glory.

Would like to restore the cemetery and grounds as well. With a little bit of effort this could be saved. Need to consolidate the names of who is buried in the cemetery. This would be a great

Eagle Scout project. Ms. Thomas stated that the individuals buried there established this area and we owe it to them to restore it. Our children need to know the history of the area. Photographs are being taken as progress is being made.

Ms. Thomas said once the church is restored it can be used as a Senior Center, a meeting location for historical events, a meeting place for scouts, and a museum. It would also be a great place to have weddings.

Ms. Thomas will write a brief article to be published in the Township's Newsletter in order to request any historical information that residents may have.

It was moved by Mr. Todd to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. The meeting was turned over to the Green Team.

Respectfully Submitted,
JoAnn Fascenelli

Next meeting date:
June 11, 2015